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FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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NEA

MESSAGE REFER 745h.00/6-650

TO : Department of State

FROM : LAGOS 266 June 6, 1950

950 JUN 13 AM 11 39

REF : Consulate General's Despatch No. 299 of May 19, 1950

SUBJECT : Political and Economic Events in Nigeria for the Two-week Period Ending June 3, 1950.

no action required 7/20/60 jmb

File

RECD ACTION INFO

FR DCR EUR OLI E PER OMB CON *COM ECA FRB LAB TAR *IC NSRB TR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 7/6/82

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

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FOIA or PA EXEMPTIONS

There is little to report for this period because:

1. The urgent items have been covered in separate despatches or in telegrams; and

2. The shortage of American personnel at this post still holds up other work.

Vice Consul WILLIAMS who has been ill for most of the period since Consul General STANTON arrived April 2, 1950 has left for his new post in Madrid and his temporary replacement, Mr. Hardy CROXTON, (reference Department's telegram No. 34 of May 24, 1950) who was to be detailed here for 60 to 90 days has not yet arrived. There is also no definite news regarding his permanent replacement nor has Mr. Joseph D. CAPRI, replacing American Clerk Joe B. BIRCH (reference Department's A-31 of May 25, 1950) reached here. The shortage is serious.

Publication on Nigerian Government

Anyone in the Department dealing with Nigerian affairs will enjoy reading the book How Nigeria Is Governed by C. R. NIVEN which was enclosed in the Consulate General's OM of May 23, 1950, as it is a lucid, concise and easily understood summary in only 157 pages and an Annex.

As stated in the OM, the writer, who is a Senior Resident in the Nigerian Service now stationed at Jos, has been a keen student of this country's affairs for many years and writes extremely well with regard to its history and government; his books are used in its intermediate schools, primarily to teach Africans.

Consular Jurisdiction for Dahomey
(Reference despatch No. 198 of April 28, 1950)

The Department no doubt has been informed by the French Government that that Government is not willing to assign Dahomey to the consular district of Lagos, preferring that it remain in the jurisdiction of Dakar. This statement is made on information received from Monsieur R. TEISSIER du CROS, French consular

WQStanton/EHWilliams/mos

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FILED JUL 25 1950

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representative at Lagos. He added that the French Government considers Dahomey as only one part of French West Africa which must be administered by the Governor General at Dakar. He did say that the Governor of Dahomey would of course be glad to receive the officers of the Consulate General at Lagos informally at any time they might care to visit his area.

Shipping

Lagos harbor continues to be greatly congested due to increased imports and exports and inadequate docking space. The main bottleneck is still the main docks at Apapa. While a five-year plan to extend the wharves has begun, in the meantime ships are customarily forced to wait from eight to sixteen days before unloading. Recently the leading shipping agents had an interview with the Acting Chief Secretary and informed him that unless there were a decided improvement in the situation almost immediately it would be economically impossible to continue the present freight rates (which are double pre-war charges) and it would be necessary to impose a 60 per cent increase on freight on all goods imported into Nigeria. Export rates would continue as at present.

Tractors

A director of Ford Motor's branch in England is making a survey of this area. The prospect for the sale of American motor vehicles is understandably poor on account of Sterling Exchange restrictions and not even good for British but there is one favorable feature - the outlook for tractors. Despite the prevalence of small husbandry, there are enough sizeable plantations and farms to make tractors interesting, so Ford is laying on a series of FORDSON demonstrations.

Willard Quincy Stanton
American Consul General

Copy to American Embassy, London.

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